

- (2) selecting a server capable of satisfying said request from said functional group, wherein said selection is transparent to said client;
- (3) computing a route to said server; and
- (4) establishing a virtual circuit from said client to said server via said route.

6. (Amended) A system for establishing a virtual circuit from a client to one of a plurality of servers through a network, comprising:

an interface module coupled to receive a routing request from the network, wherein said routing request specifies a functional group and a client, said functional group having a unique ATM address, and wherein said functional group includes a plurality of servers, each of said plurality of servers, are assigned a unique ATM address, and is capable of servicing said client;

a server module configured to select a server capable of satisfying said routing request from said functional group, wherein said selection is transparent to said client;

a routing module configured to determine a route from said client to said server through the network.

14. (Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having a computer program logic stored therein, wherein said computer program logic comprises:

interface means for enabling a computer to receive request from a network, wherein said routing request specifies a functional group and a client, said functional group having a unique ATM address, and wherein said functional group includes a plurality of servers, each of said plurality of servers, is assigned a unique ATM address, and is capable of servicing said client;

server means for enabling said computer to select a server capable of satisfying said request from said functional group, wherein said selection is transparent to said client; and

routing means for enabling said computer to determine a route from said client to said server through said network.

22. (Amended) A computer, comprising:

a processor;

interface means for enabling said processor to receive a routing request from a network, wherein said routing request specifies a functional group and a client, said functional group having